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## ANGULAR MOMENTUM ACQUISITION IN GALAXY HALOS

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## ABSTRACT

We use high-resolution cosmological hydrodynamic simulations to study the angular momentum acquisition of gaseous halos around Milky Way sized galaxies. We find that cold mode accreted gas enters a galaxy halo with  $\sim 70\%$  more specific angular momentum than dark matter averaged over cosmic time (though with a very large dispersion). In fact, we find that all matter has a higher spin parameter when measured at accretion than when averaged over the entire halo lifetime, and is well characterized by  $\lambda \sim 0.1$ , at accretion. Combined with the fact that cold flow gas spends a relatively short time (1-2 dynamical times) in the halo before sinking to the center, this naturally explains why cold flow halo gas has a specific angular momentum much higher than that of the halo and often forms “cold flow disks”. We demonstrate that the higher angular momentum of cold flow gas is related to the fact that it tends to be accreted along filaments.

*Subject headings:* galaxies:formation—halos—evolution — methods:numerical—hydrodynamic—simulation

## 1. INTRODUCTION

In the modern Lambda Cold Dark Matter (LCDM) paradigm of galaxy formation, dark matter halos form via the continuous accretion of diffuse material, as well as mergers of smaller dark matter halos over time (e.g., Stewart et al. 2008; Fakhouri & Ma 2009; Diemer et al. 2013, and references within). While the acquisition of angular momentum in dissipationless  $N$ -body simulations has been well studied (e.g., Bullock et al. 2001; Vitvitska et al. 2002; Maller et al. 2002; D’Onghia & Navarro 2007; Avila-Reese et al. 2005; Bett et al. 2007, 2010), our understanding of the extent to which gas behaves in the same manner has only recently started to be explored computationally (Chen et al. 2003; Sharma & Steinmetz 2005; Brook et al. 2011; Kimm et al. 2011; Pichon et al. 2011; Sharma & Nath 2012). In this paper, we extend such work by looking at angular momentum acquisition in galaxy halos in a suite of cosmological hydrodynamic simulations that allow us to directly measure the angular momentum not only of dark matter, but also of the gaseous halos that are built from ongoing gas accretion from the cosmic web.

In this LCDM framework, the canonical picture of galaxy formation is that gas falling into a dark matter

halo shock-heats to the virial temperature of the halo (Silk 1977; White & Rees 1978; Barnes & Efstathiou 1987; White & Frenk 1991; Maller & Bullock 2004), spending a considerable amount of time in the galactic halo and redistributing angular momentum so that gas in the halo has the same specific angular momentum as the underlying dark matter. This shock-heated gas can then cool to the center of the halo where it presumably forms an angular momentum supported galactic disk. Under this formalism, extended gaseous halos around galaxies are expected to have similar specific angular momentum as the dark matter (by construction) and the size of galactic disks should be directly proportional to the spin<sup>9</sup> of the dark matter halo (Fall & Efstathiou 1980; Mo et al. 1998). Indeed, this picture of gas accretion and angular momentum acquisition is a vital component of most semi-analytic models of galaxy formation in order to model galaxies with realistic disk sizes based on underlying dark matter halo properties (recently, e.g., Cattaneo et al. 2006; Croton et al. 2006; Somerville et al. 2008; Dutton 2012). However, abundance matching techniques (e.g., Behroozi et al. 2010) have demonstrated that at most  $\sim 20\%$  of available baryons can be found in galaxies in the present day, thus the angular momentum of a galaxy may strongly depend on the origin of the baryons that form the disk (Maller & Dekel 2002). In fact, recent simulations find that the gas in galactic disks has higher spin than that of the dark matter (Chen et al. 2003; Brooks et al. 2011) in agreement with the model of Maller & Dekel (2002).

One possible reason for this discrepancy is the treatment of gas accretion. Recent advances in hydrodynamic simulations as well as analytic arguments have stressed the importance of “cold-mode” accretion of gas that does not shock-heat to the virial temperature before building the central galactic disk. This mode of accretion occurs when the cooling time of infalling gas

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<sup>9</sup> For the sake of brevity, we often use the term “spin” throughout this paper as a synonym for specific angular momentum, except when specifically referring to the “spin parameter,”  $\lambda$  (see Eq. 1).

is shorter than the compression time, making it difficult to establish a stable shock for halos masses below a critical value<sup>10</sup> of  $\sim 10^{12} M_\odot$  (e.g., Kereš et al. 2005; Dekel & Birnboim 2006; Brooks et al. 2009; Dekel et al. 2009; Faucher-Giguère & Kereš 2011; Stewart et al. 2011a; van de Voort et al. 2011; Faucher-Giguère et al. 2011). This cold mode of accretion tends to have a very high angular momentum content (Kereš et al. 2009; Kereš & Hernquist 2009; Agertz et al. 2009; Brook et al. 2011; Pichon et al. 2011; Tillson et al. 2012), with cold-mode gas in galaxy halos typically having  $\sim 2$ – $5$  times more specific angular momentum than the corresponding dark matter in the halo (Stewart et al. 2011b; Kimm et al. 2011), with a possible exception for cold-mode accretion at extremely high redshifts ( $z > 6$ ), which may provide preferentially low angular momentum materials to galactic bulges (Dubois et al. 2012).

The goal of this paper is to investigate angular momentum acquisition at moderate and low redshifts ( $z < 3$ ) in a suite of fully cosmological high-resolution hydrodynamic simulations, in order to understand the origin of angular momentum in gaseous halos of galaxies—particularly for cold-mode gas—and to determine how angular momentum acquisition in these *gaseous* halos differs from the more thoroughly investigated spin of dark matter halos. While the build-up of high angular momentum gaseous halos invariably influences the evolution of the galaxies embedded at the center of each halo, we do *not* focus on the simulated disk galaxies’ angular momentum in this work, as there is already a rich literature of low redshift studies of galaxy kinematics using simulations similar to those presented here (e.g., Governato et al. 2009; Brooks et al. 2009; Brook et al. 2011; Stinson et al. 2010; Brooks et al. 2011; Guedes et al. 2011).

The outline of this paper is as follows. In section §2 we discuss the details of the cosmological hydrodynamic simulations used and the effects that each simulated galaxy’s unique merger history has on the more fundamental underlying trends of angular momentum acquisition. We analyze the angular momentum acquisition into galaxy halos over cosmic time in section §3, and present implications for observations of extended gaseous disks of inflowing material in §4. We discuss our results in §5, including implications for implementing cool gas halos with realistic angular momentum content in semi-analytic models of galaxy formation. We conclude and summarize our findings in §6.

## 2. THE SIMULATIONS

Each of the four simulations analyzed here uses a separate set of cosmological initial conditions to probe galaxies in different environments, though all simulations use the same fundamental cosmological parameters, adopted from the best-fit parameters of the WMAP three-year data release (Spergel et al. 2007):  $\Omega_M = 0.238$ ,  $\Omega_\Lambda = 0.762$ ,  $H_0 = 73 \text{ km s}^{-1} \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$ ,  $n_s = 0.951$ , and  $\sigma_8 = 0.74$ . We focus our analysis on the single most massive galaxy in each simulation, tracking the evolution of each galaxy halo until  $z = 0$ . Each of our four galaxies reside

in a roughly Milky Way size dark matter halo, and we refer to these halos as “Halo 1–4” throughout this paper<sup>11</sup>. Halos 1–2 both reach the critical halo mass for shock-heating infalling gas ( $M_{\text{vir}} \sim 10^{12} M_\odot$ ) at some point during each simulation, with  $M_{\text{vir}} \sim 1.5 \times 10^{12} M_\odot$  at  $z = 0$  for both halos. In contrast, Halos 3–4 remain below this critical mass at all times, growing to  $M_{\text{vir}} \sim 8 \times 10^{11} M_\odot$  at  $z = 0$ . We define the virial radius of our halos as the radius within which the average density is  $\Delta_{\text{vir}}$  times the mean density of the universe, iteratively removing unbound particles from within halos by running the Amiga Halo Finder (Knollmann & Knebe 2009) on all output snapshots of our simulations<sup>12</sup>, where  $\Delta_{\text{vir}}$  is a function of redshift and defined by Bryan & Norman (1998). We note that this is a relatively standard method of defining the virial radius of halos in dissipationless  $N$ -body simulations (e.g., Stewart et al. 2008), however there is also a growing concern that conventional definitions of halo virial radius and virial mass are somewhat arbitrary and that, ultimately, they may not be physically meaningful (e.g., Anderhalden & Diemand 2011; Diemer et al. 2013). As we are primarily concerned with comparing the angular momentum acquisition of galaxy halos via different modes (cold-mode gas, hot-mode gas, and dark matter accretion), the precise definition of the virial radius used should not impact our results.

We generate “zoom-in” multi-mass particle grid initial conditions within a periodic box of 40(50) co-moving Mpc on each side for Halos 1–2 (3–4), in order to account for large scale tidal torques. The high-resolution particle masses in the initial conditions are  $(m_{\text{dark}}, m_{\text{gas}}) = (17, 3.7) \times 10^5 M_\odot$  for Halos 1–2, and  $(m_{\text{dark}}, m_{\text{gas}}) = (12, 2.1) \times 10^5 M_\odot$  for Halos 3–4. The simulations use the code GASOLINE (Wadsley et al. 2004), which is a smoothed particle hydrodynamics (SPH) extension of the pure  $N$ -body gravity code PKDGRAV developed by Stadel (2001). The gravitational force softening is 332 (347) pc for Halos 1–2 (3–4), which evolves co-movingly until  $z = 9$  and remains fixed from  $z = 9$  to the present. The SPH smoothing length adapts to always enclose the 32 nearest gas particles and has a minimum of 0.05 times the force softening length.

The code assumes a uniform UV background from QSOs, implemented following Haardt & Madau (1996) and F. Haardt (2002, private communication). It includes star formation, and Compton and radiative cooling as described in Katz et al. (1996). The “blastwave” supernova feedback model implemented creates turbulent motions in nearby gas particles, keeping them from cooling and forming stars; this model is implemented in the code by forcibly turning off cooling for a short time, as described in Stinson et al. (2006). The only free parameters in this star formation and feedback model are the minimum density threshold ( $\rho_{\text{min}} = 0.1 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ ), star formation efficiency factor ( $c^* = 0.05$ ), and fraction of supernova energy that couples with the ISM ( $\epsilon_{\text{SN}} = 0.1$ ).

<sup>11</sup> Halo 1 uses the same initial conditions as the very high resolution  $N$ -body simulation Via Lactea II, whose merger history can be publicly downloaded at <http://www.ucolick.org/~diemand/vl/>. Halos 1–2 are the same halos analyzed in Stewart et al. (2011a,b), while Halos 3–4 have also been analyzed in past works (referred to as “h277” and “h285” respectively in, e.g., Brooks et al. 2011).

<sup>12</sup> This unbinding decreases the virial radius and virial mass by only  $\sim 5\%$ , compared to including unbound particles.

<sup>10</sup> “Cold-mode” accretion is also important in halos above this critical mass at high redshift, but we will focus on  $z < 2$  for the majority of this paper.

for Halos 1–2 and  $\epsilon_{SN} = 0.4$  for Halos 3–4) which have all been motivated by Governato et al. (2007) to produce galaxies with realistic star formation rates, disk thicknesses, gas turbulence, and Schmidt law over a range in dynamic masses. Similar simulations utilizing this feedback scheme have shown great success in producing realistic disk-type galaxies (Governato et al. 2009), matching the mass-metallicity relation (Brooks et al. 2007), and matching the abundance of Damped Lyman  $\alpha$  systems at  $z = 3$  (Pontzen et al. 2008). We refer the reader to Governato et al. (2009) for a more detailed description of the simulation code, though it is also worth noting that most of the analysis in this paper focuses on gas that has yet to form stars or be directly affected by supernova feedback. As we are focusing on angular momentum acquisition in this paper, we also note that simulations of this kind have produced galactic disks of realistic sizes when compared to observations (Brooks et al. 2011).

With the resolution implemented here, this feedback model results in minimal galactic winds ( $\sim 100$  km/s) that mostly affect hot gas, and are more prominent in halos with  $M_{\text{vir}} \lesssim 10^{11} M_{\odot}$  (Shen et al. 2010). Stronger outflows result when using high resolution simulations with higher star formation density thresholds and modified star formation and supernova efficiency parameters (e.g., Governato et al. 2010; Guedes et al. 2011; Governato et al. 2012; Pontzen & Governato 2012), but the parameters adopted in this paper do not drive outflows of cool gas. As a result, we may more easily focus our analysis on the behavior of cold-mode gas *accretion*, which is a fundamental first step to fully understanding the complex environment of gaseous halos around galaxies, which are thought to include both accretion and outflowing winds.

In the analysis that follows, we define “cold-mode” gas particles based on a temperature cutoff of 250,000 K, following the characterization put forth by Kereš et al. (2005) and Kereš et al. (2009). Gas that has *never* been above this temperature (until it reaches  $0.1R_{\text{vir}}$ ) is defined to be “cold-mode.” Any gas that does not meet this criterion is termed “hot-mode.” We stop tracking temperatures at  $R = 0.1R_{\text{vir}}$  so that these cold/hot mode definitions are not contaminated by heating due to supernova feedback. We do not make any special distinction for cold-mode gas that is associated with mergers.

We note that smooth particle hydrodynamic (SPH) codes are known to have some numerical issues following cool clouds in a hot medium (e.g., Agertz et al. 2009), however most of the general results about cold mode accretion have also been confirmed in grid-based adapted mesh refinement (AMR) simulations, though many small scale details are different. We believe the results in this paper in regards to angular momentum are robust to numerical implementation as we are mostly concerned with the state of gas in the the outer halo where resolving the multi-phase medium is less of a concern. In addition, Pichon et al. (2011) have performed a similar study using the AMR code Ramses (Teyssier 2002), and their results are consistent with ours.

### 2.1. Mergers and Stochasticity

The top panels of Figure 1 show the mass growth as a function of time for the dark matter as well as the various baryonic components within the halo (all material within

the virial radius, including the galaxy itself). We note that there is significantly more cold-mode gas in galaxy halos than there is gas in the galaxies themselves, for all four simulations and at all epochs. Thus the cold-mode gas can largely be thought of as warm halo gas, like that seen in QSO absorption systems (e.g., Werk et al. 2012).

The bottom panels of Figure 1 show the specific angular momentum of gas and dark matter in each galaxy halo. Unlike the top panels, we now remove the galaxy itself from consideration, and only look at material with  $0.1R_{\text{vir}} < R < R_{\text{vir}}$ . We quantify the specific angular momentum in this figure in terms of a dimensionless *spin parameter*,  $\lambda$ , adopted from Bullock et al. (2001), as:

$$\lambda_x \equiv \frac{j_x}{\sqrt{2} V R} \quad (1)$$

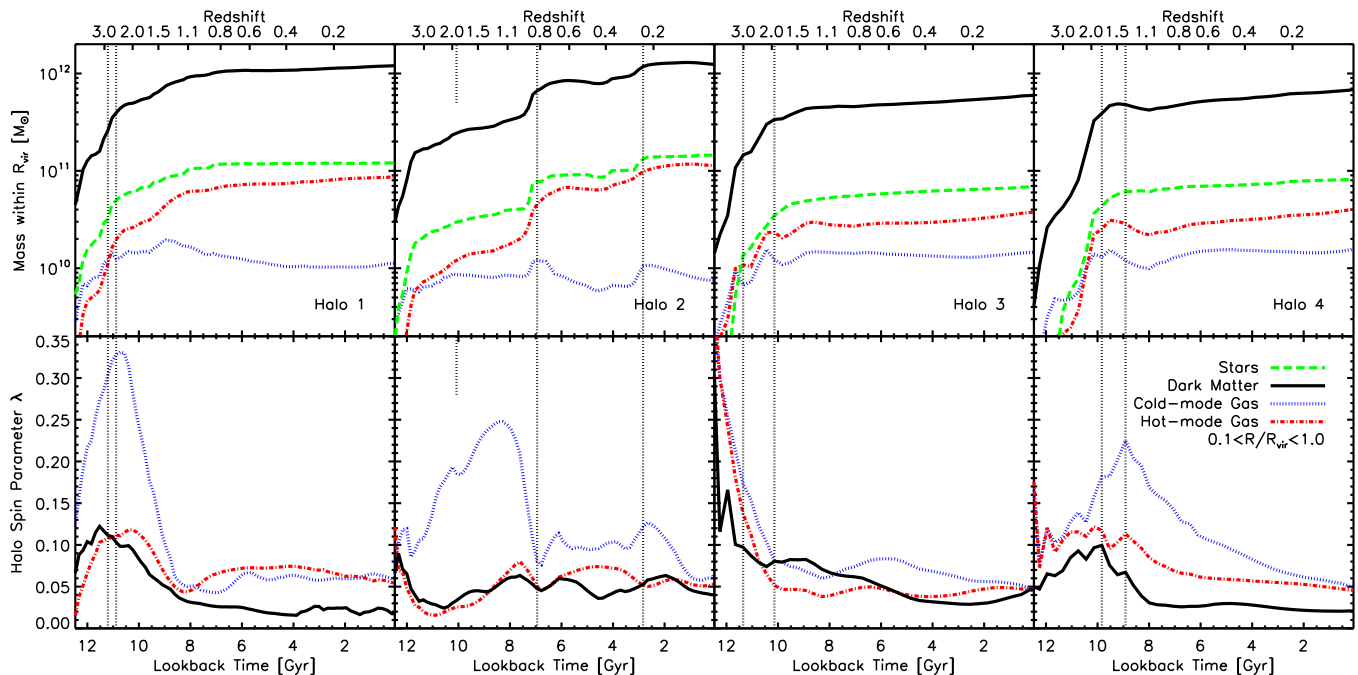
where  $\lambda_x$  is the spin parameter of a particular component  $x$  (dark matter, hot-mode gas, or cold-mode gas),  $j_x$  is the specific angular momentum ( $J/M$ ) of that component within a sphere of radius  $R$ , and  $V$  is the circular velocity measured at  $R$ . As in past works, we again find that the spin of cold-mode gas in the halo is typically much higher than that of the dark matter (Stewart et al. 2011b; Kimm et al. 2011).

Throughout this paper, we calculate the specific angular momentum of each component (dark matter, cold-mode gas, hot-mode gas) in relation to the spin axis of that same component. In this way, we may more robustly compare the angular momentum of gas versus dark matter without artificially reducing the spin of one component by projecting it along the axis of a different component. This approach also makes the most sense observationally, as it is not feasible to project any observed angular momentum measures of gas in the halos of galaxies with the spin axis of the underlying dark matter, which cannot be observed. Thus, when the cold-mode and hot-mode gas in our simulations show similar spin parameters in the bottom left panel of Figure 1 (for Halo 1 at  $z < 1$ ), this does not necessarily mandate that each gaseous component is spinning along the same axis at this time, but that the total *amplitude* of each component’s  $J/M$  is similar, regardless of the relative *alignment* with respect to each other (we will explore the non-trivial relation between the spin axis of these various components in an upcoming paper).

The tall vertical dotted lines in these figures show when each galaxy experiences a significant merger event<sup>13</sup> and often accompany sharp peaks in the mass growth of the galaxies. Often, these mergers significantly re-orient the angular momentum axis of the galaxy, the halo, or both, indicated by large peaks or dips in the bottom panels of Figure 1. The short vertical dotted line in Halo 2 shows a minor gas-rich merger that seems to have an unusually strong effect on the angular momentum of the gaseous halo. It is clear in the bottom panels that the spin of the halos is quite stochastic—especially for the cold gas in the halo. In a more detailed sense, these panels show that the impact a merger has on the angular momentum

<sup>13</sup> A merger of stellar mass ratio greater than 0.3. These lines correspond to the time of final coalescence, with the understanding that mergers are not instantaneous events. It is likely that each merger impacts the halo for several billion years prior to the times indicated in Figure 1.





**Figure 1.** Evolution of mass and angular momentum in the halos of 4 simulated galaxies over cosmic time for cold-mode gas (dotted blue line) hot-mode gas (dot-dashed red) stars (dashed green) and dark matter (solid black). *Top*: the total mass within the virial radius (after removing unbound particles). *Bottom*: specific angular momentum, in terms of the spin parameter,  $\lambda$  (see Eq. 1). Note how drastic changes in angular momentum often correspond to significant merger events (long vertical dashed lines in all panels) or even occasionally by gas-rich minor mergers (short vertical dashed line at  $z \sim 2$  in Halo 2).

of the galaxy halo depends on the precise characteristics and orbital parameters of the merger. There are multiple instances where mergers result in a drastic increase of the specific angular momentum of material in the halo (for example, Halo 1 and Halo 4). However, there are also times where mergers result in a rapid decrease in the angular momentum of the halo, due to misalignment between the pre-existing spin axis of the halo and the orbital parameters of the incoming merger (Halo 2 at  $z \sim 0.8$  and Halo 3). While the detailed impact that these merger events have on the angular momentum of the halo would be an interesting topic of future study, the goal of this paper is to understand the *underlying* steady acquisition of angular momentum into galaxy halos over cosmic time, apart from the stochastic peaks and dips that result from merger events. As a result, we will not be focusing on the detailed minutiae of the angular momentum growth in each of our galaxy halos, which will depend strongly on the individual accretion history of each halo.

### 3. ANGULAR MOMENTUM ACQUISITION

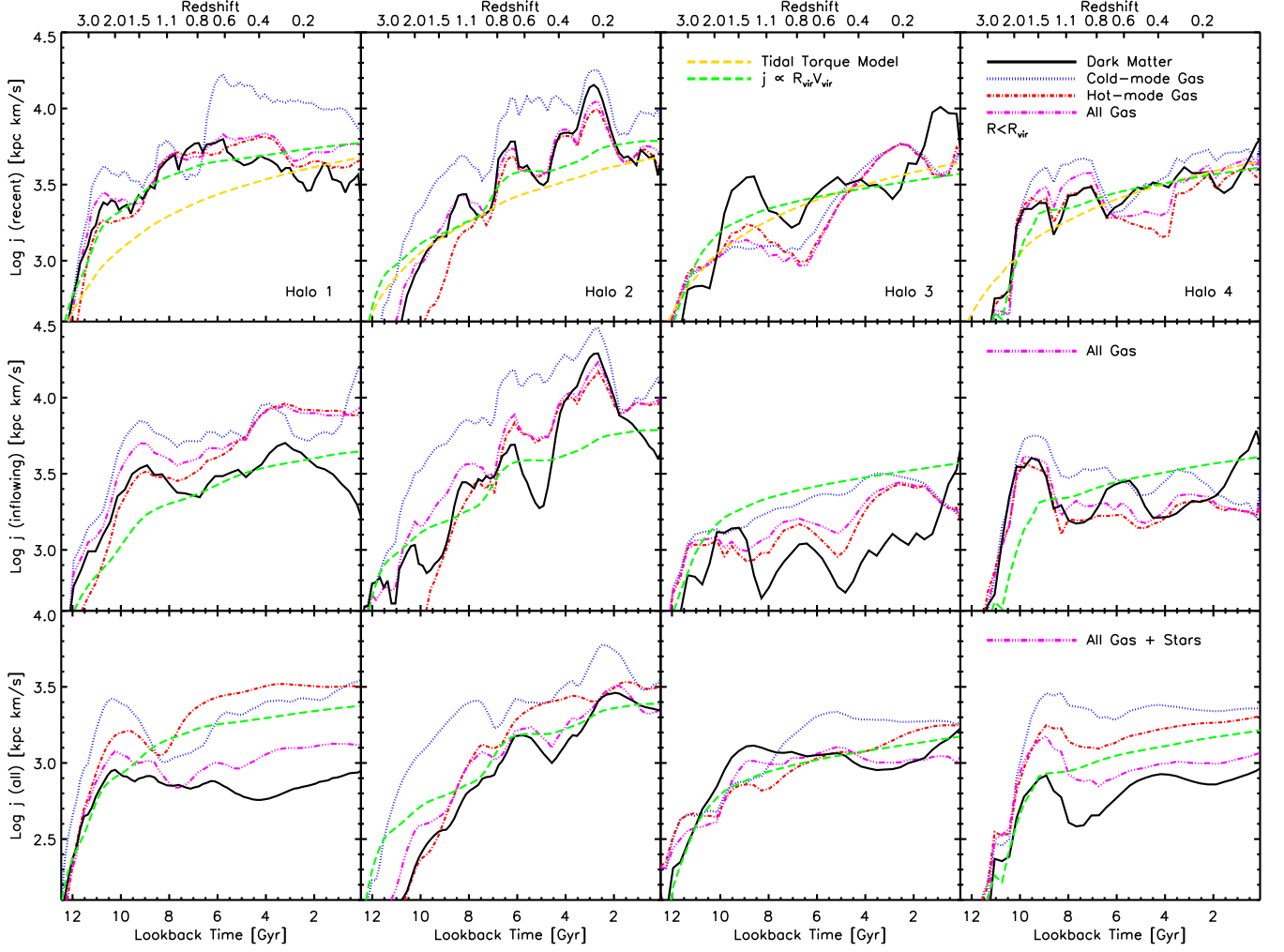
We first look at how the angular momentum of fresh gas accretion to the virial radius compares to the canonical scenario for dark matter. In the top panels of Figure 2, we directly calculate the specific angular momentum of recent accretion to the virial radius, for both gas and dark matter as a function of cosmic time, defining “recent” accretion by a timescale of  $\lesssim 300$  Myr, which is shorter than the halo dynamical timescale at all epochs of interest ( $z < 3$ ; see §3.1 for more on gas accretion timescales in the simulations), but long enough to be practical in terms of storing simulation outputs with a finite timestep resolution. Particles are considered “accreted” onto the halo once they enter the virial radius

of the halo. On occasion, a particle may enter, exit, and re-enter the halo at a later time; in this scenario, only the *latest* entry to the halo is considered to be true accretion to the halo, to avoid double-counting the angular momentum contribution of any given particle<sup>14</sup>. For comparison, the lower panels of Figure 2 show the total specific angular momentum of *all* material within the virial radius, including the galaxy itself.

It is well documented that dark matter halos in  $N$ -body simulations show relatively stable spin parameters of  $\lambda \sim 0.04$  (recently, Bett et al. 2007; Macciò et al. 2007; Berta et al. 2008; Bett et al. 2010). Since the spin parameter is defined to vary as  $\lambda(t) \propto j(t)V_{\text{vir}}^{-1}R_{\text{vir}}^{-1}$ , and since we know that for any given halo the circular velocity ( $V_{\text{vir}}$ ) and the virial radius ( $R_{\text{vir}}$ ) both grow as a function of cosmic time, the only possible way to maintain a constant spin parameter is if the specific angular momentum,  $j(t)$ , increases over cosmic time. As a result, it is a robust prediction of LCDM that *the specific angular momentum of freshly accreted material must, on average, be higher than that of the halo as a whole* (also see Porciani et al. 2002a,b; Maller et al. 2002; Pichon et al. 2011). This is an important context to keep in mind for much of the following analysis.

In each of the top panels, we compare our findings to a simple model where a constant spin parameter of  $\lambda = 0.1$  is assumed (i.e.,  $j \simeq 0.14R_{\text{vir}}V_{\text{vir}}$ ) given by the dashed (green) curve, noting that this is  $\sim 2.5$  times higher than the global spin parameter of the dark matter. We also compare to the more complex model (gold dashed curve) of Maller et al. (2002), in which the angular momentum of fresh accretion, in radial shells around the

<sup>14</sup> At any given time,  $< 20\%$  of all particles that *ever* entered  $R_{\text{vir}}$  have exited the virial radius of the system.



**Figure 2.** Specific angular momentum of accreted material. The dashed green curve represents a semi-analytic model where halo virial quantities are known, and a constant spin parameter is assumed, such that  $j(t) = \lambda \sqrt{2} V_{\text{vir}}(t) R_{\text{vir}}(t)$ . Top panels show only *fresh* accretion—material that entered the virial radius within  $\sim 300$  Myr. We see that cold-mode gas on average has  $\sim 50\%$  higher spin than all gas at the time of accretion. We compare our fixed spin parameter model ( $\lambda = 0.1$ , green dashed curve) to the more complex tidal torque model of Maller et al. (2002), given by the gold dashed curve. The middle panels compute the accretion-weighted average specific angular momentum (see text for details), again compared to the constant spin parameter model with  $\lambda = 0.1$ . Bottom panels look at *all* material currently in the halo, compared to the canonical dark matter spin model where  $\lambda = 0.04$ . (Note the difference in scale on the y-axis for the bottom panels.)

halo, has been acquired at turnaround according to linear tidal torque theory (e.g., Peebles 1969; Doroshkevich 1970; White 1984). Remarkably, the simple assumption of  $\lambda \sim 0.1$  for infalling material produces very similar curves to the tidal torque model, reproducing the specific angular momentum of fresh accretion as well as (or better than) the physically motivated tidal torque model.

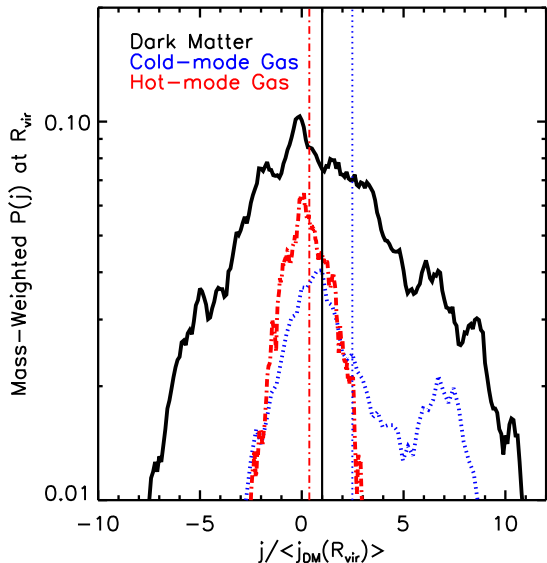
In the middle panels, we use a complementary approach to probe the spin of accreting material. Instead of choosing matter with recent infall times, we instead compute a velocity-weighted average for  $j$  for all particles in the inner halo ( $0.5 < R/R_{\text{vir}} < 1.0$ ) that possess *in-flowing* radial velocities with respect to the halo center:

$$j(\text{inflowing}) \equiv \left| \frac{\sum m_i v_r (\vec{r}_i \times \vec{v}_i)}{\sum m_i v_r} \right|, \quad v_r < 0 \quad (2)$$

similar to the definition of “accretion-weighted” angular momentum performed by Kimm et al. (2011). While the exact values of  $j$  shown in Figure 2 depend on the pre-

cise definition used (“recent” versus “inflowing”), comparison between the top and middle panels demonstrates that this quite different and complementary approach for probing inflowing material provides qualitatively similar results. We again find that inflowing gas, and particularly cold-mode gas, has significantly more angular momentum than inflowing dark matter in the outer halo of our simulated galaxies, closer to a spin parameter of  $\lambda = 0.1$  (shown: green dashed curve) than the canonical value from dark matter simulations of  $\lambda = 0.04$  (bottom panels).

In the bottom panels, we show the specific angular momentum for *all* particles in the halo, and compare to the expectation of  $\lambda = 0.04$ , which is a relatively close approximation to the curves. The difference between the top/middle versus bottom panels of this figure (a factor of  $\sim 2.5$  in  $j$ ) is paramount for understanding the angular momentum content of galaxy halos versus that of galaxies. We see from this figure that the angular momentum of all baryons in the halo is very similar to



**Figure 3.** Specific angular momentum distribution,  $P(j)$  of dark matter, cold-mode gas, and hot-mode gas at  $R = R_{\text{vir}}$  around Halo 2 at  $z \sim 1.4$ . To aid in comparison between components, the x-axis has been normalized by the average specific angular momentum of the dark matter at the virial radius, so that a value of  $j / \langle j_{\text{DM}}(R_{\text{vir}}) \rangle = 1$  corresponds to the average value for the dark matter curve.

that of all dark matter, both in fresh accretion (top) and in all material within the virial radius (bottom); thus, the canonical assumption of  $\lambda = 0.04$  still seems to be a reasonable estimate for the angular momentum of galaxies, or of all baryons in the *entire* halo. However, this assumption grossly underestimates the spin of *recent* (top) or *inflowing* (middle) dark matter accretion into the halo, as well as that of the gaseous component in the halo. Of particular note is that for each of our simulated galaxies, either in fresh accretion, inflowing accretion, or even cumulative accretion, cold-mode gas is almost always higher than that of recent dark matter or even that of hot-mode gas accretion<sup>15</sup>. Averaging over all four simulations for the redshift range shown, we find (based on the top panels of Figure 2) that recent cold-mode gas accretion has on average a  $\sim 70\%$  higher spin than that of recent dark matter accretion, though with very large variations. This systematic offset between the angular momentum of cold-mode versus hot-mode gas accretion suggests a fundamental kinematic difference between gas that is accreted in each of these modes.

To gain further insight into how these modes of gas accretion differ from each other, and from dark matter accretion, Figure 3 shows a representative mass-weighted histogram of the specific angular momentum for particles of dark matter (solid black), cold-mode gas (dotted blue), and hot-mode gas (dot-dash red), focusing on a single simulation at a single point in time (Halo 2 at  $z \sim 1.4$ ). For the sake of straightforward comparison, we normalize the x-axis by the average specific angular momentum of

all dark matter at  $R_{\text{vir}}$ ,  $\langle j_{\text{DM}}(R_{\text{vir}}) \rangle$ <sup>16</sup>, and the y-axis by the cosmic baryon fraction. We show the distribution  $P(j)$  for particles between  $0.95R_{\text{vir}} < R < 1.05R_{\text{vir}}$ . The vertical line shows the mean value of  $P(j)$ . We see that the specific angular momentum distribution of dark matter is much broader than that of the gas components. The hot-mode gas is much narrower and has a mean near zero, which we might expect if the hot gas is shock heating as it enters the virial radius. What is more surprising is that the cold-mode gas has a distribution very different than the dark matter with a much higher mean, even though we do not expect the cold-mode gas to have exchanged angular momentum in any coherent fashion. This dual-peak distribution of cold-mode gas at this epoch is *not* due to a gas-rich merger or some other unusual accretion event, but seems to be a typical result of coherent cold-mode gas accretion along cosmic filaments. We have checked that these differences remain at  $2R_{\text{vir}}$  suggesting that they have to do with the large scale distribution of the various components and not particle interactions. Taken alongside Figure 2, this suggests a fundamental kinematic difference between the origin of cold-mode gas versus hot-mode gas accretion onto galaxy halos.

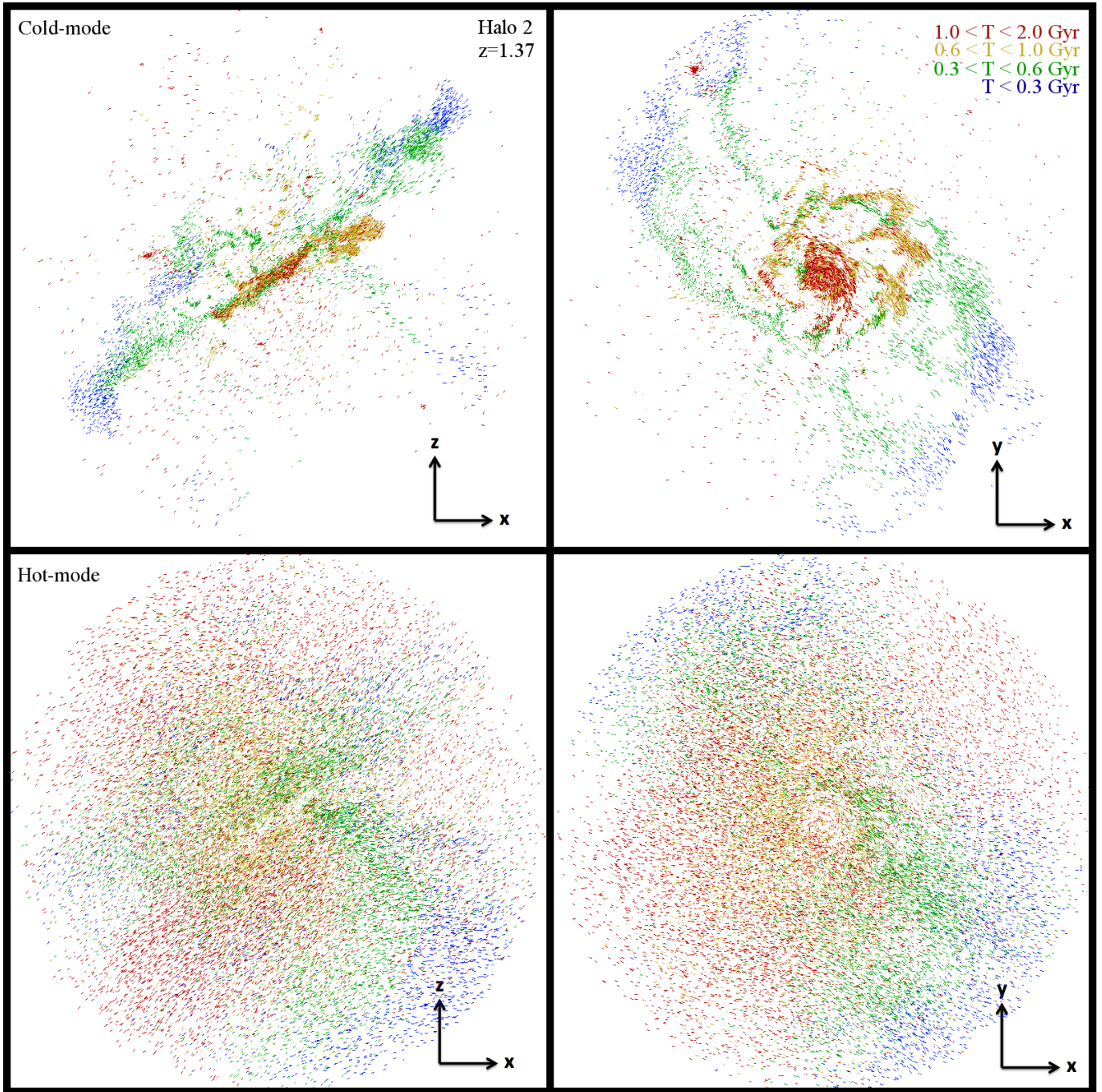
We investigate this distinction further by visualizing all recently accreted gas particles within the virial radius of this same halo at this same epoch in Figure 4. Each panel shows the position of all cold-mode (top) and hot-mode (bottom) gas particles that were accreted to the halo within the past 2 Gyr, with the length of each mark proportional to the projected velocity of each particle, so that the figure gives a qualitative visual impression of the velocity flow of the particles shown. The color of each particle corresponds to the accretion time, allowing a sense of time progression from the most recent accretion (blue;  $T < 300$  Myr) to the older accretion that has had time to sink to the center of the halo and mix with the pre-existing gaseous halo (red;  $1 < T < 2$  Gyr). The galactic disk is edge-on at the center of the image in the left panels, and face-on in the right panels, as indicated by the red particles in the top plots where cold-mode gas has had sufficient time to reach the galaxy. In the bottom panels, the galaxy cannot be seen, as hot-mode gas accretion typically takes longer than 2 Gyr to reach the galaxy at this epoch (we discuss accretion timescales further in §3.1).

We note several important qualitative features in Figure 4. The most striking is the stark difference between cold-mode and hot-mode accretion. As has been noted in past simulation studies, cold-mode accretion typically flows into the halo along the direction of the large-scale filaments that fuel the galaxy, most clearly visible in the upper-left panel, while hot-mode accretion is more likely to be more isotropic (e.g., Kereš et al. 2009). The velocity vectors of the particles also show that while both cold-mode and hot-mode gas accretion has significant angular momentum on a particle-by-particle basis, the cold-mode gas in the upper panels shows clear indication of coherent rotation. While no such bulk motions are readily visible *by simple visual inspection* in the lower panels, Figure 2

<sup>15</sup> A notable exception to this result is for Halo 3 at  $z \sim 1.5$ , when  $j$  for cold-mode gas accretion is *less* than that of the recent dark matter accretion, presumably as a result of the mergers in this systems shown in Figure 1. While some authors distinguish between cold-mode gas accretion and cold gas associated with merger, we remind the reader that we make no such distinction here.

<sup>16</sup> Under this normalization, a value of  $j / \langle j_{\text{DM}}(R_{\text{vir}}) \rangle = 1$  corresponds to the mean value of the specific momentum of the dark matter at the virial radius (i.e. the black curve in Figure 3) by definition.





**Figure 4.** Example velocity flow chart for recent gas accretion. In each panel, the length of each mark is proportional to the projected velocity of the corresponding particle, while the colors correspond to different accretion times to the virial radius of the halo. The width of each panel is  $\sim 200$  co-moving kpc (the virial radius for this halo at this epoch), with left and right panels showing orthogonal projections of the same galaxy. The galaxy is viewed edge-on in the left panels and face-on in the right panels, while the top panels show cold-mode accretion and the bottom panels show hot-mode accretion.

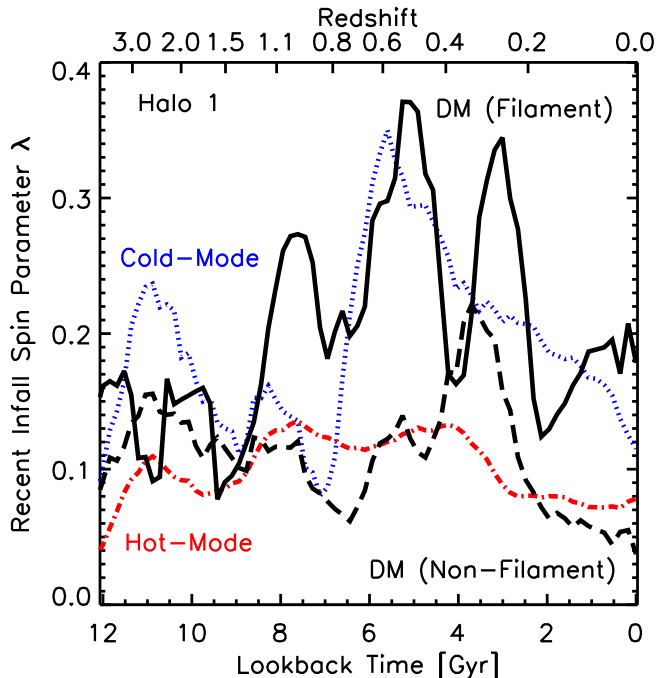
has already demonstrated that the hot-mode gas is also spinning about the galaxy with significant specific angular momentum—if not quite as high as is present in cold-mode material.

The upper panels also show clear segregation of cold-mode gas particles as a function of accretion time. As gas first accretes onto the halo, it clearly begins in the outskirts near the virial radius (blue) and gradually falls inward, spinning about the galaxy and losing orbital energy as it sinks towards the center of the halo (green-

gold). After 1–2 Gyr, the cold-mode gas reaches the galactic region and begins to fuel the outer edges of the galaxy itself (red). This clear picture of gas accretion from the cosmic web directly onto the galactic disk is not indicated by the bottom panels for hot-mode accretion. Instead, we see significant radial mixing, with gas from a wide range of accretion times at various radii.

If the different spatial and kinematic origins of filamentary (cold-mode) accretion versus non-filamentary (hot-mode) accretion is truly what leads to the distinct angu-





**Figure 5.** Spin parameter of gas and dark matter, revisited. The colored lines show the spin parameter of recent accretion ( $T < 0.3$  Gyr,  $R < 0.5R_{\text{vir}}$ ). When only recent dark matter accretion along cosmic filaments is included, it has a much higher angular momentum than the fiducial value of  $\lambda \sim 0.04$ , and is more similar to the spin of recent cold-mode gas accretion, which also flows into the halo along filaments.

lar momentum distributions on infall, then we should see a similar distinction between the spin of filamentary versus non-filamentary *dark matter* accretion as well. Figure 5 shows the spin parameter as a function of time for recently accreted ( $T < 300$  Myr) dark matter, cold-mode gas, and hot-mode gas, using an identical color/line scheme as in Figure 1. However, we have now broken up the recent dark matter accretion into two mutually exclusive components: *filamentary* dark matter accretion<sup>17</sup> (black solid curve) versus *non-filamentary* dark matter accretion (black dashed curve). Aside from some noticeable stochasticity, we see remarkable correlation between the specific angular momentum of fresh filamentary accretion (filamentary dark matter versus cold-mode gas) and between that of fresh non-filamentary accretion (non-filamentary dark matter versus hot-mode gas). These correlations are highly indicative that the higher specific angular momentum content of fresh cold-mode accretion is a fundamental consequence of filamentary accretion to dark matter halos (for a theoretical explanation of *why* filamentary accretion is expected to have higher angular momentum than non-filamentary accretion, see Pichon et al. 2011).

Because filamentary accretion is often thought to necessarily indicate highly radial infall trajectories, we note that this kinematic difference between hot-mode and cold-mode gas is not simply due to their *average* orbital

parameters upon infall. Quantifying the “typical” orbit of fresh accretion to the virial radius in terms of a median *infall angle*—the angle between a completely radial infall vector and the actual velocity vector of each particle upon first entering the virial radius—we find that cold-mode gas, hot-mode gas, and dark matter all have comparable mean infall angles ranging from  $\sim 30$ – $50$  degrees from radial, with no clear trends for any component being consistently more or less radial than other components. We want to take a moment to emphasize this point, as it has important ramifications for absorption-line studies of gaseous halos. When interpreting velocity offsets in studies of absorption systems along lines of sight to background galaxies, it is often assumed that infalling gas accretion onto the galaxy should always be indicated by high-velocity pure radial infall. We emphasize that this is not the case; for both dark matter and gas, the vast majority of accreted material enters the virial radius with high angular momentum, spinning about the halo at an initial angle of  $\sim 40$  degrees from a purely radial trajectory, with only a portion of the infall velocity along the radial direction. As a result, we advise that absorption-line searches for cold-mode accretion should not focus exclusively on signs of purely radial infall, but should also look for signs of coherent rotation in cool gaseous halos (for observable signatures of coherent rotation in Halos 1–2, see Stewart et al. 2011b).

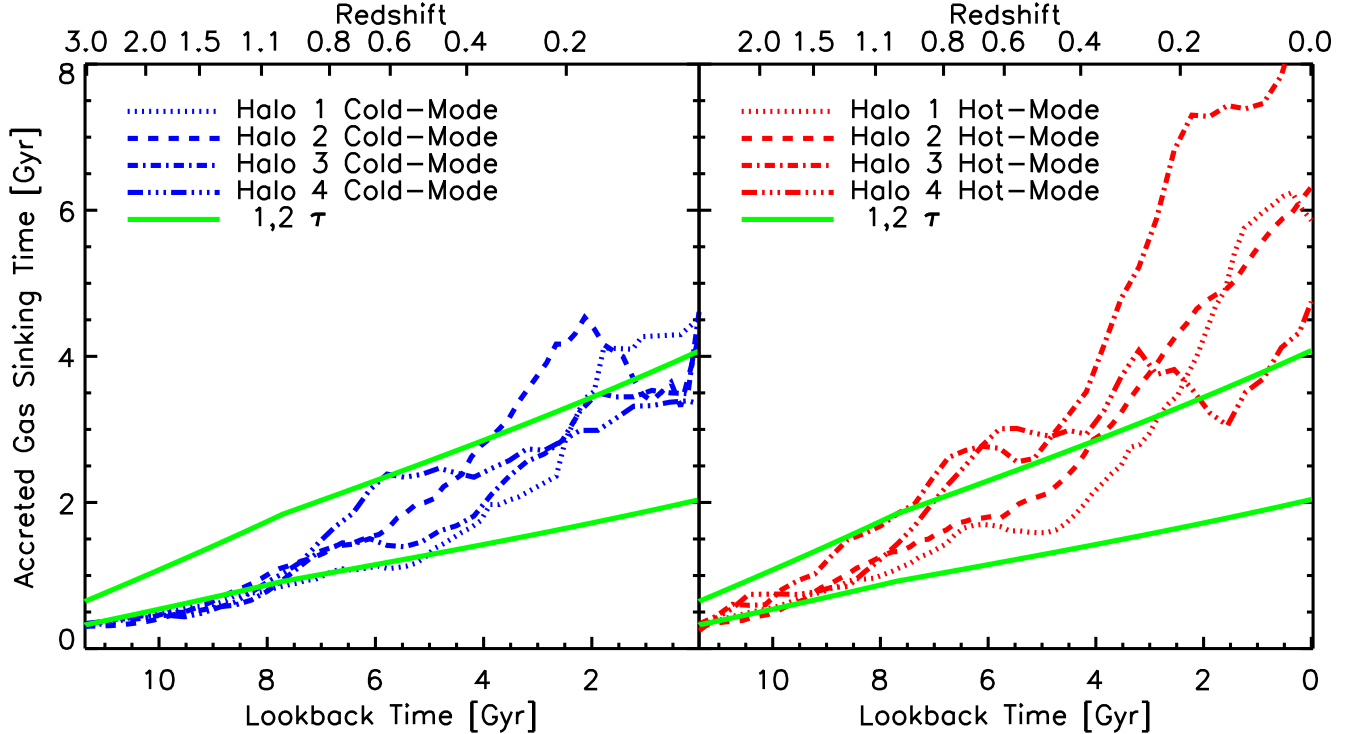
### 3.1. Halo Gas Accretion Timescales

Figure 4 indicated that the radius of infalling cold-mode material is tightly coupled with its accretion time, whereas the picture is more complicated for hot-mode gas (or dark matter accretion). In order to understand the processes involved in transporting high angular momentum fresh accretion from the virial radius to the galaxy, it is important that we recognize the different timescales involved in this transport. However, we first must ask the question: once infalling material falls to a given radius, does it *stay* within that radius? If material routinely enters the galactic region only to return along an elongated orbit to the outer edges of the halo, it will be difficult to define an “infall timescale” in a meaningful way.

We compare the cumulative mass of all material that was *ever* accreted to within a given radius,  $R$ , to the mass *currently* enclosed within  $R$ , and find that the vast majority of gas and dark matter that falls within the virial radius is ultimately bound to the halo, with  $\lesssim 20\%$  of all mass that ever entered the halo being lost to the system, most likely during violent major mergers. In contrast, when we focus on material that has fallen within the inner halo ( $R < 0.5R_{\text{vir}}$ ) we notice an important difference. While  $\sim 85$ – $95\%$  of all gas that has ever entered the inner halo remains there, only  $\sim 60$ – $70\%$  of dark matter is equally bound to this inner radius.

The difference between this behavior of dark matter and gas within the halo is not surprising, as the highly elliptical elongated orbits of collisionless dark matter particles will often bring them back to the outer halo for significant periods of time during each orbit about the halo’s center. In contrast, high angular momentum gas particles are more likely to mix with other gas in the inner halo, redistributing angular momentum so that they no longer have enough orbital energy to exit the inner halo. Consequently, while it is indeed straightforward to

<sup>17</sup> At each epoch, we define filamentary accretion spatially by locating particles in a bi-conical region, extending from the halo center towards the direction of the filament (determined by visual inspection of matter density contours) in either direction, with a 3D opening angle of 20 degrees.



**Figure 6.** The average amount of time it took for gas currently in the galactic region ( $R < 0.1R_{\text{vir}}$ ) to sink from  $R_{\text{vir}}$  to  $0.1R_{\text{vir}}$ . *Left:* Note that the sinking time for cold-mode gas accretion is relatively short, with timescales typically between  $1 - 2\tau$ , where  $\tau$  is the halo dynamical times and is given by the two solid green curves in both panels. *Right:* The sinking time for hot-mode gas accretion is typically longer ( $\sim 7 - 10$  Gyr at  $z = 0$ ). The median lookback time to accretion for dark matter particles in the halo is considerably longer ( $\sim 7 - 10$  Gyr at  $z = 0$ ).

define a “sinking time” for infalling gas, it is not meaningful to define a similar quantity for dark matter. Thus, for each halo we define the sinking time by tracking every gas particle *currently* in the galactic region of the halo at each epoch ( $R < 0.1R_{\text{vir}}$ ) back in time in the simulations, calculating the amount of time it took to reach  $R = 0.1R_{\text{vir}}$  after first entering the virial radius.

Using this definition, Figure 6 shows the mass-weighted mean sinking time for cold-mode gas particles in each of our simulations as a function of time. Because the sinking timescale invariably depends on halo properties, which in turn depend on the epoch in question, we find it useful to compare these timescales to the halo dynamical time<sup>18</sup>  $\tau(z)$ . We compare the sinking time to  $\tau$  and  $2\tau$  (the solid green curves), finding that typical sinking times are relatively short for cold-mode gas—only  $\sim 1 - 2\tau$  ( $< 3$  Gyr at  $z = 0$ ). We repeat this analysis to determine the average sinking time from  $R = 1.0 - 0.5R_{\text{vir}}$ , for all material currently in the inner halo ( $R < 0.5R_{\text{vir}}$ ). Not surprisingly, the sinking time for material still in the inner halo is roughly half of the values shown in Figure 6. These findings strongly suggest that infalling cold-mode gas in galaxy halos is not a cumulative reservoir of ancient past accretion, but instead probes *fresh* accretion to the halo, with very high specific angular momentum

<sup>18</sup> We define the halo dynamical time by the crossing time:  $\tau = R/V \propto (\Delta_v(z) \rho_u(z))^{-1/2}$ , such that  $\tau$  is independent of halo mass and only depends on redshift. We adopt simplified fitting functions for  $\tau(z)$  as presented in Stewart et al. (2009). At redshifts  $z = 3, 2, 1, 0$ ,  $\tau(z) \simeq 0.3, 0.5, 1, 2$  Gyr respectively.

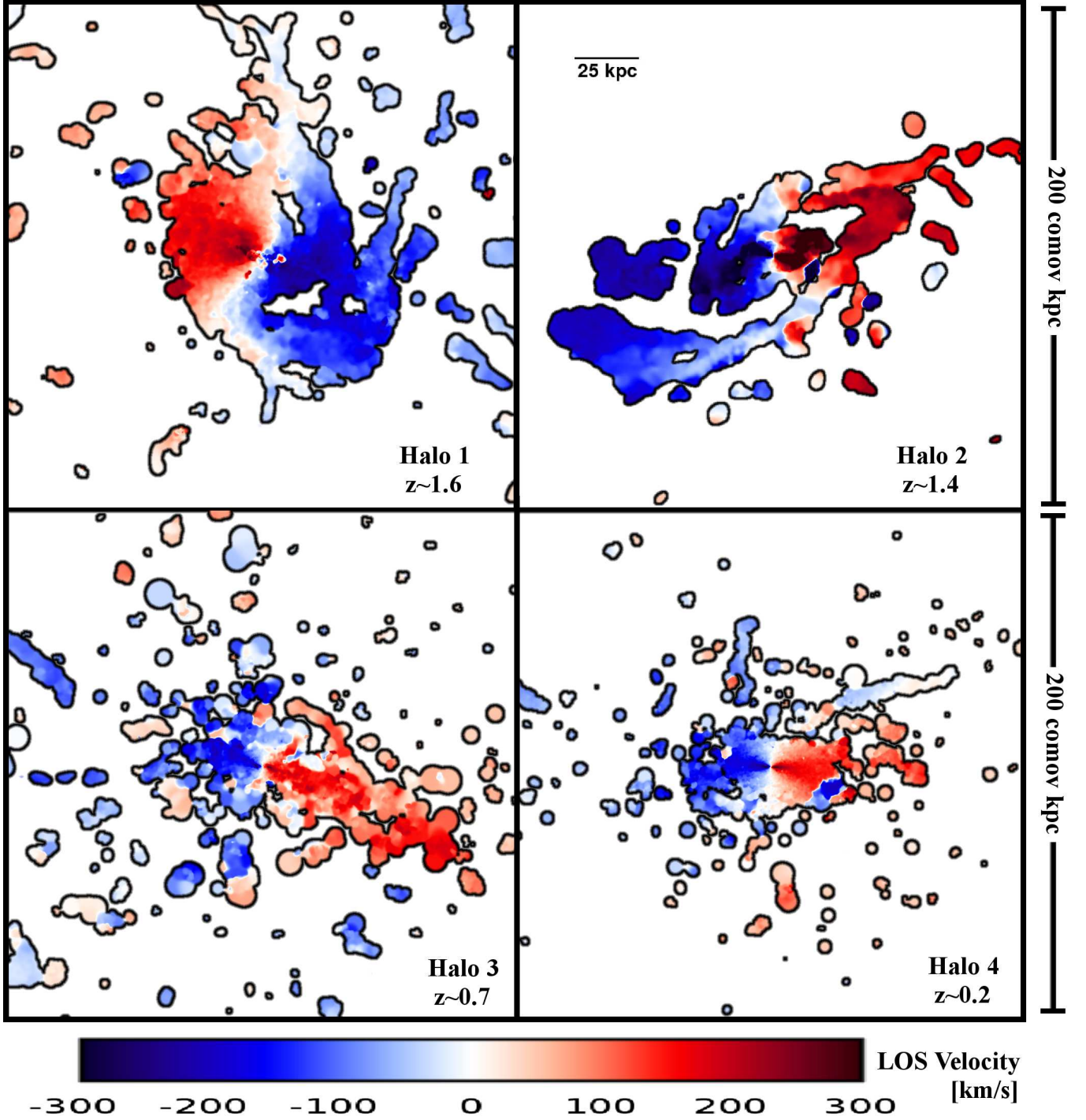
content similar to that presented in the top panels of Figure 2.

The sinking time for hot-mode gas accretion is typically longer than that of the cold-mode curves shown here by a factor of  $\sim 1 - 2$ . As mentioned previously, we cannot provide a true “sinking time” comparison for dark matter particles, but we instead calculate the median look-back time to first accretion for dark matter particles currently in the halo at  $z = 0$  and find considerably longer timescales:  $\sim 7 - 10$  Gyr for dark matter particles in  $0.1R_{\text{vir}} < R < 1.0R_{\text{vir}}$  and  $\sim 5 - 8$  Gyr for dark matter particles in the outer halo ( $0.5R_{\text{vir}} < R < 1.0R_{\text{vir}}$ ).

#### 4. OBSERVATIONAL CONSEQUENCES

Based on our findings, we know that fresh cold-mode gas accretion onto galaxy halos has much more specific angular momentum than is typical for the entire dark matter halo (Figure 2, top), or for all baryons in galaxies (Figure 2, bottom), and that fresh cold-mode gas accretion even has higher specific angular momentum than recent hot-mode gas accretion, due to its fundamentally different origin along cosmic filaments (Figures 2–5). It is possible that these inherent difference in the angular momentum content of cold-mode versus hot-mode accretion might play a role in explaining why spiral and elliptical galaxies appear to retain different percentages of the specific angular momentum of all infalling material (Romanowsky & Fall 2012).

In addition, we find that infalling gas does not travel through the halo in purely radial orbits, but rather has typical infall angles of  $\sim 40$  degrees (with respect to ra-



**Figure 7.** “Cold flow disks” in each of our four simulated halos, at  $z \sim 1.6, 1.4, 0.7, 0.2$  respectively going from the top left to the bottom right panel. All panels are on the same velocity and co-moving distance scale, with the width of each panel set to 200 co-moving kpc. Note the coherent rotation in the cool halo gas well beyond the inner regions where the galaxy resides. The galactic disk is viewed near edge-on in each panel ( $i > 65^\circ$ ).

dial), with the spin of cold-mode gas in the halo often in a coherent direction, set by the direction of the large-scale cosmic filaments (Figures 4-5). We have also established that cold-mode gas in galaxy halos has relatively short sinking timescales, and thus probes fresh accretion (Figure 6).

Taking these results together, it is not surprising that cool halo gas around galaxies often forms coherent structures with very high angular momentum, formed from continually infalling material from the cosmic web that eventually fuels the galaxy. As a result, we find that cold-mode gas accretion often forms extended “cold flow



disks” of dense gas that rotates coherently about the galaxy, in roughly the same direction as the galaxy. Previous simulation studies have demonstrated that this gas accretion should be observable as extended, warped disks of cool gas dense enough to form neutral hydrogen (e.g., Roškar et al. 2010; Stewart et al. 2011b), which may help explain observations of XUV disks (Thilker et al. 2005, 2007) and extended HI disks (García-Ruiz et al. 2002; Oosterloo et al. 2007; Walter et al. 2008) around galaxies, which tend to co-rotate with the inner galactic disks (Christlein & Zaritsky 2008). Even in less extreme cases, observations by Wang et al. (2013) find that for a sample of roughly Milky Way size galaxies that have been selected to be HI-rich, there is often evidence of extended, clumpy HI disks that suggest an orderly accretion process involving a range of high angular momentum gas—qualitatively very similar to what we have seen in our simulations.

While cold flow disks are not universal phenomena at all times in our simulations, neither are they rare isolated incidents. Figure 7 gives a visual impression of the rotation of cool gas within  $R < 100$  co-moving kpc over a broad redshift range and sampling each of our four simulations, instead of only focusing on a single halo at a single epoch as we did in Figure 4. For each pixel in the images, the blue–red shading corresponds to the mass-weighted average velocity of HI gas along the line of sight, where we only show sightlines above a minimum detectability threshold of  $N_{\text{HI}} > 10^{16} \text{ cm}^{-2}$ . All four galaxies show clear signs of coherent rotation of gas in the halo, as well as co-rotation between the gaseous halo and the galactic disk—even out to large radii. The co-rotation of the galaxies and their cold flow disks are a natural consequence of the high angular momentum content of cold-mode gas in the halo, coupled with the fact that cold-mode gas accretion quickly sinks to the center of the halo, feeds the galactic disk, and thus helps define the angular momentum direction of the galaxy over time.

Based on our simulations, we predict that cold flow disks (possibly already observed as XUV disks or extended HI disks) should be more common for galaxies below the critical shock-heating threshold  $M_{\text{vir}} \lesssim 10^{12} M_{\odot}$ , though they will likely extend farther into the halo for galaxies very close to this threshold (Stewart et al. 2011a). They should contain more specific angular momentum than their associated galaxies or dark matter halos, and are likely to be more metal-poor than the associated galaxies (since the material is fresh accretion from the cosmic web). In addition, since cold flow disks probe recent cold-mode gas accretion to the halo, the orientation of these disks (often misaligned with the central galaxy) may give better indication of the direction of large scale cosmic filaments in which halos are embedded than the orientations of galaxies themselves. We will expand on this conjecture further in an upcoming paper.

## 5. DISCUSSION

In the canonical picture of angular momentum acquisition of galaxies, it is assumed that the angular momentum of baryons (galaxies) are set by the underlying spin of the dark matter halo in which each galaxy resides (e.g., Mo et al. 1998). This formalism has led to great successes in reproducing galaxy population using semi-analytic models of galaxy formation in which

galaxies and their properties are added on top of underlying  $N$ -body simulations of dark matter structure (e.g., Somerville et al. 2008).

The assumptions inherent in this canonical picture of angular momentum acquisition *do not work for gaseous halos* of galaxies. While galaxies represent a cumulative growth of material over long time scales (similar to the underlying dark matter), gaseous halos probe the most recent accretion of fresh material from the cosmic web—especially for cool gas resulting from cold-mode accretion, which has very short sinking times of only a few billion years. To further complicate matters, cold-mode and hot-mode accretion contribute different amounts of specific angular momentum, with cold-mode accretion having higher specific angular momentum upon infall due to its distinct filamentary nature.

Based on the results presented here, we propose a new scenario for angular momentum acquisition, in which: 1) cold-mode gas typically carries more specific angular momentum than hot-mode gas accretion—a fundamental difference that appears to be linked to its filamentary accretion nature 2) the sinking time of cold-mode gas is quite short, comparable to the halo dynamical time 3) fresh accretion from the cosmic web (and thus, gas present in the halos of galaxies) has a much higher spin than that of the galaxy or the dark matter halo, spinning about the halo as it falls in, often in the form of extended cold flow disks 4) it is this high angular momentum gas that provides galaxies with both mass and angular momentum, helping to set the spin axis of the galaxy.

We note that in detail the full picture of angular momentum acquisition will be more complex than the scenario outlined above, in part due to the presence of galaxy scale gaseous outflows, which have been emphasized in recent observations of cool halo gas (e.g., Steidel et al. 1996; Martin 2005; Rubin et al. 2010) and were not included in the simulations presented in this paper. It is worth noting, however, that a recent simulation by Brook et al. (2011)—one that includes bi-conical galaxy-scale outflows as a result of their high resolution and modified feedback scheme—found that the high angular momentum inflowing cold-mode gas was *least* affected by the outflowing gas. This was primarily due to the fact that inflowing material was more likely to approach the galaxy along its major axis, while outflowing material was more likely to contain low angular momentum gas ejected along the minor axis of the galaxy. Thus, the two mechanisms—cold-mode inflow and ejected outflows—typically inhabit different spatial regimes within the halo.

### 5.1. Semi-analytic Models of Galaxy Formation

While recent semi-analytic models have begun implementing cold-mode and hot-mode gas accretion into galaxies (e.g., Croton et al. 2006; Cattaneo et al. 2006; Somerville et al. 2008), most of these models still presume that the angular momentum of galaxies are primarily set by the spin parameter of the dark matter within the halo. Though this may provide a reasonable approach for estimating stellar disk sizes (because these are the baryons that were accreted early enough to have already formed stars), it will be difficult (if not impossible) to explain the presence of massive extended



HI disks around galaxies with typical halo spin parameters (García-Ruiz et al. 2002; Oosterloo et al. 2007; Walter et al. 2008) or to accurately model the velocity structure of cool gas halos in the circum-galactic regions of galaxies without accounting for the fact that recent accretion is spinning more quickly than the bulk of the dark matter in the halo.

We propose that semi-analytic models should consider estimating the angular momentum of cool gas halos relatively simply by adopting the higher spin parameter (some  $\sim 3$  times higher than the canonical spin of the halo) for all recently accreted material, motivated by the top panels of Figure 2.

Since this cold-mode halo gas is continually accreting onto the galaxy itself, one could also model the angular momentum of fresh gas accretion onto the outer edges of the galaxy (that is, cold-mode gas that is currently falling on to the galaxy for the first time) by an angular momentum  $j(t) \sim \lambda \sqrt{2} V_{\text{vir}}(t - \tau) R_{\text{vir}}(t - \tau)$ , where  $\lambda \sim 0.1$ , and  $\tau$  is the sinking time (Figure 6), comparable to the halo dynamical time. However, we note that it is non-trivial to integrate this continuous fresh accretion (to the galactic region) to obtain the total angular momentum of the resulting galaxy. Over time, this high-spin material experiences significant vector cancelation, due to the change in relative orientations between the galaxy, the dark matter, the cold-mode halo gas, and the large-scale cosmic filaments from which new material is constantly being accreted (see Kimm et al. 2011). These orientations do not stay fixed over cosmic time, but vary somewhat stochastically based on large scale tidal fields and non-linear torques during major mergers. Instead, the direction between the galaxy orientation, the entire halo, and that of the inflowing cosmic filaments are more likely to be offset by  $\sim 20 - 40$  degrees, instead of being perfectly aligned (e.g., van den Bosch et al. 2002; Sharma & Steinmetz 2005; Kimm et al. 2011, in preparation).

## 6. CONCLUSION

In this paper, we used four high resolution cosmological hydrodynamic simulations to investigate the acquisition of angular momentum in roughly Milky Way sized galaxy halos over time. Motivated by recent findings that the specific angular momentum of gaseous halos are considerably higher than that of the dark matter halo (Stewart et al. 2011b; Kimm et al. 2011) we focus on how reservoirs of cold-mode gas in galaxy halos grow and evolve over time, and how the angular momentum of this material differs from the canonical scenario for angular momentum growth in galaxies. We note that the angular momentum history of galaxy halos is sometimes quite stochastic—especially during galaxy mergers that may reorient the angular momentum axis of the system—so we focus on the average behavior of each system over time. We summarize our findings below.

1. Cold-mode gas enters the halo preferentially along the direction of cosmic filaments, while hot-mode accretion is more isotropic in origin. As a result, cold-mode gas inherently has more specific angular momentum at first infall than hot-mode gas accretion ( $\sim 70\%$  more). When filamentary dark matter accretion is compared to non-filamentary accretion,

we find similar differences between the initial specific angular momentum of dark matter upon infall.

2. The spin of all gas within the halo (including the galaxy) is broadly consistent with well-studied dark matter simulations, which find a relatively stable value of  $\lambda \sim 0.04$  over a broad range in epoch and mass. However, when we focus only on *fresh* accretion—gas and dark matter that has only been in the halo for  $< 300$  Myr—we find much higher spins, consistent with  $\lambda \sim 0.1$ .
3. While gas accretion onto galaxy halos is often pictured as purely radial infall, we find that this is universally *not* the case in our simulations. Due to the high angular momentum of infalling material, it always spins about the halo with a typical infall angles (with respect to radial) of  $\sim 30 - 50$  degrees at the virial radius.
4. While the elongated orbits of collisionless dark matter particles may allow dark matter to populate the halo (even at the outskirts, near the virial radius) for long periods of time, inflowing gas is relatively short-lived in the halo. The “sinking time” for cold-mode gas to travel from the virial radius to accretion to the galactic region ( $R < 0.1 R_{\text{vir}}$ ) is  $\sim 1-2$  halo dynamical times ( $< 3$  Gyr at  $z = 0$ ).
5. This high angular momentum, quickly sinking, filamentary cold-mode accretion often takes the form of extended cold flow disks of newly accreted inflowing material, coherently rotating roughly in the same direction of the galaxy. These extended gaseous disks may be related to observations of XUV and extended HI disks around galaxies.

The nature of gas cooling in simulations invariably depends on the exact simulation code used, with different codes producing slightly different results from one another depending on the implementation and resolution, as well as different schemes for modeling the effects of supernova feedback, and in what way it injects energy back into the ISM. As a result, the definition of what gas is considered cold-mode versus hot-mode could be argued to be a somewhat arbitrary distinction, especially when defined by a single maximum temperature cut, as we have done in this paper.

Nevertheless, the very nature of our results suggest a fundamental underlying difference between the accretion modes we have labeled “cold-mode” and “hot-mode,” as the two accretion mechanisms show distinct properties (even before first infall to the halo virial radius) in terms of spatial position and angular momentum content upon entering the halo. Whether or not the cold streams break up on their way to the disk, the fact that they enter with high angular momentum is likely a robust physical distinction. Based on the results presented here, we speculate that it may in fact be more physically meaningful to consider the bi-modal mechanism for gas accretion onto galaxies not as fundamentally “cold” versus “hot,” (though this certainly appears to be true), but rather as “filamentary” versus “non-filamentary” modes of gas accretion onto galaxy halos. We admit, however, that the robustness of any such reclassification would require a

much more thorough analysis of filamentary versus non-filamentary accretion than what we have presented here, and would be a useful topic of further study.

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